

California Weather-Hydro Conditions during December 2007

As of January 1, Water Year 2008 statewide hydrologic conditions were as follows: precipitation, 75% of average to date; runoff, 40% of average to date; and reservoir storage, 80% of average for the date. Since October 1, precipitation was 73% of average in the Sacramento River region, 59% of average in the San Joaquin River region, and 68% of average in the Tulare Lake Region.

On January 1, 2008, the Northern Sierra 8-Station Index had a seasonal total of 12.0", which is about 67% of the seasonal average to date and about 24% of average for an entire Water Year (50.0"). The Water Year 2007 October through November seasonal total of 12.0" is the 27th driest year out of 89 years of record.

December unimpaired runoff in the Sacramento River Region was 36% of average. Cumulative Sacramento River Region runoff since October 1 is about 47% of average compared to about 72% a year ago. December unimpaired runoff in the San Joaquin River Region was about 21% of average. Cumulative San Joaquin River runoff since October 1 is about 23% of average compared to 46% a year ago. The median forecasts of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valley Water Year Type indexes are "Dry" and "Critical," respectively.

Selected Cities Precipitation Accumulation as of 01/01/2008 (National Weather Service Water Year: July through June)					
	Jul 1 to Date 2007 - 2008 (in inches)	% Avg	Jul 1 to Date 2006 - 2007 (in inches)	% Avg	% Avg Jul 1 to Jun 30 2007 - 2008
Eureka	16.20	101	15.21	95	42
Redding	9.78	83	10.76	91	29
Sacramento	5.14	84	4.29	70	28
San Francisco	5.36	78	5.34	78	26
Fresno	2.64	77	1.64	48	23
Bakersfield	0.83	43	0.91	48	12
Los Angeles	3.76	97	1.31	34	24
San Diego	2.19	68	1.67	52	20

Key Reservoir Storage (1,000 AF) as of 01/01/2008								
Reservoir	River	Storage	Avg Storage	% Average	Capacity	% Capacity	Flood Control Encroachment	Total Space Available
Trinity Lake	Trinity	1,375	1,671	82	2,448	56	---	777
Shasta Lake	Sacramento	1,784	2,904	61	4,552	39	-1,601	1,648
Lake Oroville	Feather	1,227	2,230	55	3,538	35	-1,936	1,308
New Bullards Bar Res	Yuba	528	538	98	966	55	-268	428
Folsom Lake	American	222	480	46	977	23	-355	497
New Melones Res	Stanislaus	1,451	1,345	108	2,420	60	-519	1,075
Don Pedro Res	Tuolumne	1,223	1,331	92	2,030	60	-467	699
Lake McClure	Merced	244	453	54	1,025	24	-431	572
Millerton Lake	San Joaquin	181	280	65	520	35	-254	240
Pine Flat Res	Kings	217	420	52	1,000	22	-456	580
Isabella	Kern	107	154	70	568	19	-63	414
San Luis Res	(Offstream)	1,314	1,408	93	2,039	64	---	631

The latest National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center (CPC) weather outlook for January 2008, issued December 31, 2007, suggests below average temperatures for almost all of California, including much of the Pacific Northwest. Above average precipitation is likely for all California, including most of the American West.

The pattern of this year's long-range forecasts is influenced by the continuing development of moderate La Nina conditions (cooler than average sea-surface temperatures) across the tropical Pacific. Current conditions suggest that La Nina conditions may continue into next spring. La Nina events influence the position and strength of the jet stream over the Pacific Ocean, which in turn affects the winter precipitation and temperature patterns across the United States and other locations in the world. La Nina conditions can favor a wetter than average Pacific Northwest and a drier than average American Southwest. California sits in the transition zone with the northern mountains of the State potentially wetter than average, and the Central Valley and Southern California potentially drier than average. In addition, during La Nina years, weather in Northern California can be highly variable, with both wet and dry scenarios possible. Southern California has a more consistent tendency toward dryness, suggesting that drought conditions are likely to persist in that region and the American Southwest.